

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for improving response of a plant to stress, the method comprising:
  - (a) ~~adding~~ transforming the plant with a DNA molecule, whose nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence as in SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~to the plant~~; and
  - (b) expressing the DNA molecule in a plant to improve the response of the plant to stress.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA molecule comprises ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleotide sequence as in SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA molecule is stably integrated in the plant genome.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stress is selected from the group consisting of cold, osmotic stress, drought, and abscisic acid.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is *an Arabidopsis thaliana* ~~HOS10~~ HOS10 transcription factor as in SEQ ID NO: 1.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is a monocot.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding at least one other DNA molecule that encodes a transcription factor different from ~~in a different pathway than~~ ~~HOS10~~ HOS10, ~~from signaling pathways conserved among dicots and monocots~~.
8. (Currently amended) A transgenic plant ~~comprising transformed with~~ a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a ~~HOS10~~ HOS10 protein ~~(SEQ ID NO: 1) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1~~, wherein an increased expression of the protein within the plant results in increased cold resistance to the plant.
9. (Currently amended) The ~~transgenic~~ plant of claim 8, wherein the ~~HOS10~~ HOS10 protein has an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.
10. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 8, wherein the plant is a monocot.
11. (Currently amended) A plant seed ~~comprising transformed with~~ a recombinant nucleic acid

molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. (Currently amended) An expression cassette comprising a promoter functional in a plant cell operably linked to an isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding an HOS10 polypeptide (~~SEQ ID NO: 2~~) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein an enhanced expression of the polypeptide in the plant cell results in increased cold resistance to the plant.
13. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 12, wherein the promoter is stress induced.
14. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 13, wherein the stress induced promoter is selected from the group consisting of an ABA-inducible promoter, a turgor-inducible promoter, and an ethylene responsive promoter.
15. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 12, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a viral coat protein promoter, a plant tissue-specific promoter, a monocot promoter, a ubiquitin promoter, a CaMV 35S promoter, a CaMV 19S promoter, a nos promoter, an Adh promoter, a sucrose synthase promoter, a tubulin promoter, a napin promoter, an actin promoter, a *cab* promoter, a PEP Case promoter, a 7S alpha'-conglycinin promoter, an R gene complex promoter, a tomato E8 promoter, a patatin promoter, a mannopine synthase promoter, a soybean seed protein glycinin promoter, a soybean vegetative storage protein promoter, a bacteriophage SP6 promoter, a bacteriophage T3 promoter, a bacteriophage T7 promoter, a Pta promoter, and a root-cell promoter.
16. (Currently amended) A plant vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a HOS 40 HOS10 polypeptide (~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein an expression of the polypeptide in a plant results in increased cold resistance to the plant.
17. (Currently amended) A host plant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a HOS 40 HOS10 polypeptide (~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein an expression of the polypeptide in a plant results in increased cold resistance to the plant.
18. (Currently amended) A plant vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a HOS 40 HOS10 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO: 1), wherein an expression of the polypeptide in a plant results in increased salt resistance to the plant.
19. (Currently amended) A host plant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a recombinant nucleic

acid encoding a HOS10 polypeptide (~~SEQ ID NO: 4~~) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein an expression of the polypeptide in a plant results in increased salt resistance to the plant.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for improving response of a plant to stress, the method comprising:
- (a) adding a first DNA molecule, whose nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence as in SEQ ID NO: 1 to the plant;
  - (b) adding at least a second DNA molecule; and
  - (c) expressing the first and the second DNA molecules in a plant.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the expression of the first and second DNA molecules are controlled by different signaling pathways.
22. (Currently amended) A method for improving response of a plant to stress, the method comprising:
- (a) adding transforming the plant with a DNA molecule, whose nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~to the plant~~; and
  - (b) expressing the DNA molecule in a plant under control of a tissue specific promoter to improve response of the plants to stress.
- 23.(Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the tissue specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of root, flower, fruit, leaves, stem, and petiole specific promoters.
24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA is stably integrated.